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PEST CONTROL THROUGH SANITATION



- Sameer Thawer

Pests, by the very definition of the word are a nuisance and annoyance - and can be a costly one at that. Prevention is ideal - so why not focus on never having a full blown problem in the first place? Pest control through sanitation and education is one of the keys to doing this successfully.

On the most basic level, if your home or business provides the availability of food, water and shelter, you are setting yourself up for these small but mighty nuisances. Little critters have a way of finding a way into a home or business and once they have entered, they can be hard to get rid of.

Sanitation checklists

An effective pest control system must include sanitation at its core. Many problems can be reduced, or even prevented from occurring, if proper practices and learnings from pest education are followed.

The following is a checklist to help you make sure your home or business environment is protected. If you have already identified a problem, then it is better to ask for a professional pest consultation service.

A pest problem can result from factors both outside and inside your home or building. It's important not to neglect either. Once these are attracted to the premises, it is only a matter of time before the problem worsens.

Outdoor checklist:

Litter: Many homeowners underestimate the amount of opportunity needed to take advantage of. Garbage containers that are not tightly sealed - or even worse, open or litter scattered around the property, invite critters. These two factors can attract them and encourage them to look for ways to enter the home or building as well. Ask family members/employees not to litter and make sure any trash from the facility is taken out at the appropriate time.

Standing water: If you have any containers of water lying around, this could attract mosquitoes. Dump them out to prevent bugs from breeding on your property and to from giving them a source of water.

Cracks and crevices in building structure: Check for any new cracks or crevices in the property routinely. Make sure these are sealed up before bugs come out in the warmer months of the year.

Vents: It's also important to keep an eye on vents in the home or facility. Vents can dispense small particles of food onto the roof that can be attractive. Regularly clean the vents and the roof to make sure bugs have nothing to find.

Indoor Checklist:

Garbage disposal: Make sure garbage is stored in tightly sealed containers and removed in a timely manner. Recyclables and compost should also be kept in critter-proof containers.

Food storage: Store food off the floor in cupboards or pantry.

Clean-up: Insects, ants and bugs can feed on tiny amounts of food, such as crumbs left on the floor. Spot clean floors, especially in the kitchen and dining area regularly and deep clean periodically.

Drains and filters: Certain types of drains and filters may become a place for fruit flies to breed. Consistently check these drains and scrub them out to make sure that no flies or food is getting trapped in there.

Equipment: All equipment in a business should be kept clean and maintained, whether it uses self-cleaning mechanisms or takes other sanitation procedures. If the equipment isn't self-cleaning, ensure that employees are trained in how to properly clean them.

Conclusion: The foundation of an effective pest control and pest management program is good sanitation and following pest education practices. Trash disposal and sound structural maintenance plays important role. Through the use of these practices, problems can often be eliminated before they ever occur. An inhospitable environment is created by depriving them of food, water and shelter.

Article Source:

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